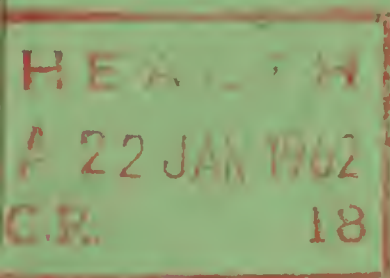


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MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1960



To the Chairman and Members
of the
Melford Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Melford Rural District for the year 1960.

According to the estimate of the Registrar General the population of the District has increased by a further 60, and the vital statistics show that both Birth and Death Rates are somewhat lower than the National figures.

Again various forms of heart disease were the cause of more deaths than any other disease. Pneumonia was the only notifiable disease to be a cause of death. The total number of cases of Tuberculosis known in the District declined by 14%, although one death resulted from this disease.

None of the notifiable diseases reached epidemic proportions and those cases which were reported were mild.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and to the Members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement and interest, and also to thank the Clerk of the Council, Mr. J.A. Shaw, the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.A.E. Burrows, and Mr. H.J. Harrington, your Water Engineer, for the help and co-operation I have received from them, and to the latter two for their contributions to this Report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G.P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

Area of the District.	47,270-acres.
Rateable Value. ....	... (£104,429) £106,916.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	... (£411. 19s. 7d.) £425. -s. -d.
Number of inhabited houses.	(4,606) 4,694
Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ,...	(12,860) 12,920

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(80) 96	(81) 99	(161) 195
Illegitimate.	(4) 3	(3) 5	(7) 8
Totals.	(84) 99	(84) 104	(168) 203

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude) (13.1) 15.7

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population
(adjusted) (13.1) 15.7

Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) (16.5) 17.1

Illegitimate Birth Rate. (4.1%) 3.8%

Still Births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(1) 1	(-) 1	(1) 2
Illegitimate.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals.	(1) 1	(-) 1	(1) 2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births (5.8) 9.0

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births
(England & Wales) (20.7) 19.7

Deaths:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	(76) 82	(82) 66	(158) 148
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (crude)	(11.4)	11.4	
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted)	(10.0)	9.8	
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	(11.6)	11.5	
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.	(Nil)	Nil.	

Infant Mortality:

Number of deaths of infants
under one year of age:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(2) 2	(-) 4	(2) 6
Illegitimate.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals..	(2) 2	(-) 4	(2) 6

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births. ...	(11.9) 29.5
(b) All infants England and Wales.	(22.0) 21.7

Neo-Natal Mortality:

Number of deaths of infants under four weeks
of age, per 1,000 live births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(1) 2	(-) 3	(1) 5
Illegitimate.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals..	(1) 2	(-) 3	(1) 5

Neo-Natal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births (5.9) 24.6

Early Neo-Natal Mortality:

Number of deaths of infants under one week
per 1,000 live births:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate.	(-) 2	(-) 3	(-) 5
Illegitimate.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Totals..	(-) 2	(-) 3	(-) 5

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (-) 24.6

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis.	(-) 1	(-) -	(-) 1
Measles.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Whooping Cough.	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Diphtheria....	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Influenza.....	(4) -	(3) -	(7) -
Cancer (All Types).	(16) 14	(13) 19	(29) 33
Vascular Lesions of the Nervious System.	(10) 6	(12) 5	(22) 11
Heart Diseases (All Forms)	(23) -	(39) -	(62) -
Heart Diseases (other)....	(-) 19	(-) 16	(-) 35
Coronary Disease...	(-) 15	(-) 16	(-) 31
Leukaemia.....	(1) -	(-) -	(1) -
Diabetes.	(-) 1	(1) -	(1) 1
Pneumonia.....	(4) 6	(4) 2	(8) 8
Bronchitis...	(6) 5	(1) 3	(7) 8
Other Respiratory Diseases.	(2) 3	(2) -	(4) 3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum...	(2) 1	(-) -	(2) 1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea....	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Nephritis and Nephrosis..	(-) 1	(-) -	(-) 1
Hyperplasia of Prostate..	(-) -	(-) -	(-) -
Congenital Malformations.	(1) -	(-) 3	(1) 3
Accidents (Not Motor Vehicles).	(1) 1	(1) -	(2) 1
Accidents (Motor Vehicles).	(2) 2	(-) -	(2) 2
Suicide.	(2) 1	(-) -	(2) 1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	(2) 6	(6) 2	(8) 8
Totals.....	(76) 82	(82) 66	(158) 148

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.

Senior Public Health Inspector, whole time,
J.A.E. Burrows, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector, whole time,
I.C. Hazell, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

2. Ambulance Facilities

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service.

3. Nursing in the Home

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

4. The West Suffolk County Council provide four Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford, Nayland and Great Waldingfield.

5. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich, has given the district very generous service.

The Public Analyst for the County has given Reports on the analysis of the water in the Area.

SECTION C.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H.J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer:

During the year ended 31st March, 1961, the Council's Public Water Supplies have been satisfactory, both in quantity and quality, although the consumption per head of the population continues to rise and will do so as sewerage and sewage disposal schemes are completed. Consideration was given to the question of storage, and it is proposed to construct a 250,000 gallons Surface Water Reservoir at High Cross, Long Melford, which will be supplied from the Great Cornard Bore during off peak periods, and return from the Reservoir into supply during peak draw off periods.

A section of 4" Asbestos Cement Water Main was laid on the Cramphorn Estate, Great Cornard, where Messrs. H.C. Janes, Ltd., Builders, propose to construct a further 146-dwellings for sale.

At the end of March, 1961, 4,501 houses were receiving a mains water supply; 3,366 properties having a laid-on supply and 1,135 properties being supplied by means of Standpipes in gardens.

Detailed information relating to each Parish is set out below:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Laid-on Supplies.</u>	<u>Standpipe Supplies.</u>	<u>Total Number of properties connected.</u>
Acton.	161	24	185
Assington... ..	98	33	131
Great Cornard.	647	57	704
Little Cornard....	72	20	92
Chilton.	71	18	89
Leavenheath. ,... ..	73	29	102
Newton.	82	29	111
Long Melford.	623	219	842
Great Waldingfield. ...	102	63	165
Little Waldingfield. ...	65	14	79
Stoke-by-Nayland..	185	38	223
Nayland.	247	13	260
Alpheton....	56	16	72
Boxted.	39	2	41
Glemsford... ..	266	373	639
Carried forward...	2,787	948	3,735

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Laid-on Supplies.</u>	<u>Standpipe Supplies.</u>	<u>Total Number of properties connected.</u>
Brought forward...	2,787	948	3,735
Hartest. 	98	28	126
Lawshall. 	131	45	176
Shimpling. 	80	14	94
Stanstead. 	44	48	92
Somerton. 	19	14	33
Bures... 	207	38	245
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,366	1,135	4,501
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The daily consumption per head of the Population served on the various Schemes was as follows:-

Central Area Scheme

Source of Supply - Great Cornard Bore.

Serving the Parishes of Great and Little
Cornard, Long Melford, Acton, Assington,
Great and Little Waldingfield, Chilton
Newton and Leavenheath.

25.73 gallons per head per day. (23.88)

Stoke-by-Nayland Scheme

Source of Supply - Bore, Scotland
Street, Stoke-by-Nayland.

Serving the Parishes of Stoke-by-Nayland
and Nayland with Wissington.

27.47 gallons per head per day. (23.54)

Northern Area Water Scheme.

Supply purchased in bulk from the
Thingoe Rural District Council.

Serving the Parishes of Glemsford, Stanstead,
Boxted, Hartest, Somerton, Lawshall,
Shimpling and Alpheton.
22.10 gallons per head per day. (22.29)

Bures St. Mary Scheme

Supply purchased in bulk from the Lexden
& Winstree Rural District Council.

Serving the Parish of Bures St. Mary only.
26.41 gallons per head per day. (22.66)

Figures in Parentheses refer to year 1959.

The total amount of Water supplied during the year was
156,478,000 gallons made up as follows:-

For Domestic Purposes:	117,527,000 gallons.
Supplied by Meter:	<u>38,951,000 gallons.</u>
Total. ...	<u>156,478,000 gallons.</u>

The above figures represent a consumption of 33.64 gallons per
head per day of the population for all purposes.

Examination of Supplies.

All supplies were analysed during the year by the Council's
Analyst, at the Analytical Laboratory, Haywards Heath, Sussex, in
accordance with the Water Abstraction Regulations, 1947, and all
proved to be very satisfactory.

None of the sources of supply tended to have Plumbo-Solvent
action.

SECTION D,

REPORT OF MR. J. A. E. BURROWS

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES - Private.

Samples from three shallow wells and one borehole were submitted for bacteriological examination. One shallow well was found to be heavily polluted and was abandoned, a piped supply from the Council's Mains being provided.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

Acton.

Except for a period of four days at the beginning of November when the pumphouse was put out of action by excess flood water this Disposal Works continued to function without trouble, giving a satisfactory effluent throughout the year.

Bures.

This Disposal Works has produced a good effluent throughout the year. The Bures Hamlet Ejector Station was flooded for two days in November, due to a rise in the river level, and the ejectors were switched off for this period.

The Bures Dyeworks continued to discharge its effluent to the River Stour. Action to transfer this discharge to the Council's sewer was deferred in view of the proposal to move the Dyeworks to the new factory at Great Cornard.

Nayland and Stoke-by-Nayland.

Work to provide two much needed sludge drying beds was commenced.

The Solids Diverter Station at Scotland Street, Stoke-by-Nayland, was again the most troublesome part of the installation. Further leaks developed in the cylinders repaired the year before, these cylinders being finally replaced by the makers. The opportunity was taken to carry out certain modifications to the pipe-work and switch-gear which together appear to have made this Station more reliable.

The effluent from the Works continued to be satisfactory.

Long Melford.

This new works operated without trouble until the end of the year when the quality of the effluent began to fall off and sludge trouble developed in the humus tank. The causes of this trouble were being investigated at the end of the year.

146 additional properties were connected, bringing the total number to 357.

Great Waldingfield.

Work on the new sewers commenced at the latter part of the year. The old disposal works remained in a derelict condition awaiting reconstruction.

General.

A full-time labourer was appointed for the Long Melford Disposal Works, bringing the total number of sewerage maintenance staff to four.

SMALL SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES FOR COUNCIL ESTATES.

No change.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION SCHEME.

The scheme was extended in May to include a small group of ten houses at Upsher Green, Great Waldingfield, the tenants of which had lost their only disposal area because of proposed housing development.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE.

This service, provided on request for domestic cesspools, continued to be operated by a private contractor. 420 emptyings were made from 317 properties. This substantial decrease on work done the previous year was due to the reduction of the number of cesspools in Long Melford, following the provision of the sewer. The Parish distribution of the properties served was as follows:-

Acton.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Alpheton....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Assington...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Carried forward. ...								16

Brought forward.	...	...	...	16
Boxted...	...	...	...	4
Bures St. Mary.	...	...	...	11
Chilton..	...	...	...	13
Glemsford.	...	...	...	9
Great Cornard..	...	...	...	148
Great Waldingfield...	,...	...	...	13
Hartest...	...	...	...	12
Lawshall.	...	...	...	8
Leavenheath....	...	...	...	13
Little Cornard.	...	...	...	12
Little Waldingfield..	...	...	...	4
Long Melford...	...	...	...	7
Nayland..	...	...	...	2
Wissington.	...	...	...	4
Newton...	...	...	...	19
Shimpling.	...	...	...	3
Somerton..	...	...	...	-
Stanstead.	...	...	...	5
Stoke-by-Nayland.	...	...	...	14

37 privies were emptied from once to three times during the year making a total of 59 emptyings.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council continued to provide a fortnightly collection service for all parishes except Long Melford, where refuse is collected weekly. In February the old 10-cu.yd., side loader vehicle was replaced by an 18-cu.yd., dual-tip vehicle in an endeavour to meet the requirements of new development, particularly that in Great Cornard.

HOUSING.

Nineteen houses were demolished as the result of statutory or informal action.

Two houses were made fit following informal action.

The main housing efforts of the Department were again directed towards the improvement of property through grant-aided schemes. Discretionary Grants totalling £3,930., were approved in respect of thirteen schemes, together with thirty-six Standard Grant applications. Twenty-eight Discretionary Grant Schemes and thirty-seven Standard Grant Schemes were completed.

365 proposals were submitted to the Council for consideration under the Town and Country Planning Acts and/or the Council's Building Byelaws, an increase of eighty over the previous year.

To enable adequate inspections to be carried out of this ever increasing volume of new work the Council decided to appoint a Building Inspector and Mr. P.D. Cutmore joined the Council's staff in October.

Eighty-seven private dwellings were completed with a further fifty-seven under construction at the end of the year.

Houses completed were in the following parishes:-

Great Cornard.	...	...	...	...	49
Glemsford.	...	...	...	...	8
Great Waldingfield..	...	...	...	...	6
Lawshall.	...	...	...	...	5
Long Melford..	...	...	...	...	4
Leavenheath...	...	...	...	...	3

Carried forward... 75

Brought forward...	75
Chilton. 	2
Nayland. 	2
Shimpling.	2
Acton... 	1
Assington.	1
Bures... 	1
Little Cornard.	1
Hartest. 	1
Little Waldingfield.	1

Fifty-one Council houses, distributed in the following Parishes were completed:-

Long Melford.. 	25
Great Cornard. 	18
Bures... 	5
Stoke-by-Nayland.... 	2
Assington. 	1

Seven Council houses were under construction at the end of the year.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The number of slaughterhouses and conditions of slaughtering remain unchanged. 94.4% of animals slaughtered received post-mortem inspection. 23 carcasses (0.7% of those inspected) were found to be infected with cysticercus bovis.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed.	3,270	50	1,707	4,725
Number Inspected.... ...	3,175	50	1,511	4,472
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned.	3	4	33	21
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	291	3	9	185
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	9.3	14.0	2.8	4.6
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned... ..	4	-	-	97
Percentage of the number inspected with Tuberculosis.	0.1	-	-	2.2

INSPECTION OF FOODS OTHER THAN MEAT.

A complaint of mouldy pork pies having been bought from a shopkeeper was investigated. The trouble was due to overlong storage in a refrigerated show-case. It is to be regretted that shortage of staff does not permit any regular inspection of food premises generally.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

Forty-eight complaints of various kinds were received, of which fourteen concerned the refuse or night-soil collection schemes, eleven cesspool or sewerage problems, and five the keeping of animals. All were investigated and informal action taken as found necessary.

RODENT CONTROL.

There was no change in this scheme.

No statutory action was required.

SECTION E.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases Notified during five years:

Cases Notified:

<u>Disease:</u>	<u>1960.</u>	<u>1959.</u>	<u>1958.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	53	26	31	26	15
Whooping Cough.	26	4	39	102	30
Measles.	96	313	39	85	415
Diphtheria....	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia.	12	22	28	31	28
Erysipelas....	-	6	1	1	1
Ophthalmia - Neonatorum...	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	1	-	-
Peurperal Fever.	1	-	2	1	1
Infective Hepatitis.	4	3	2	10	6
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	14
Paratyphoid Fever... ..	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning.	1	1	-	-	-
Meningococcol Infection...	1	1	-	-	1
Malaria.	-	1	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS							
	Pulmonary			'Non-Pulmonary			Total all Types
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
No: of cases on Register at commencement of year.	20	33	53	2	2	4	57
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
No: of cases added during the year.	3	2	5	1	-	1	6
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
No: of cases removed during the year.	5	8	13	-	-	-	13
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
No: of cases remaining on the Register at end of year.	18	27	45	3	2	5	50

SECTION F.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938

Two cases , 1-cow and 1-pig, of Anthrax in livestock were notified. The disposal of the carcasses of these animals, by incineration, was supervised.

SECTION G.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

I - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No: on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	63	84	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.	-	35	1	-
TOTAL	64	119	1	-

II - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	found	remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences:				
(a) Insufficient.	1	1	-	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1

III - Part VIII - OUTWORKERS

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>Number</u>
Making of Boxes.	2

SECTION H.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 - Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

One case was dealt with during the year in accordance with this Section of the Act.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

